

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, October 27, 2014.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Dorothy Ann Baluch, Shirley Evans Palmer, Clarice Ollerenshaw and Kitt Alexander Kling, and former residents David Elliot Dodge, Ramon F. Reno and John D. Haslinger. He then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES:

Work Session #1, September 17, 2014

Work Session, October 6, 2014

Regular Meeting, October 13, 2014

Approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Arts Advisory Board, Report # 2015-1 (Response to Artists' Proposals for Art/Signage in the CHEARS Three Sisters Gardens): Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of the next meeting.

Lease Renewal – Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department: Council authorized renewal of the lease with the Fire Department for five years and authorized the City Manager to sign on the City's behalf.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Davis requested the minutes of the Executive Session on October 1, 2014, be removed from the agenda. With this change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Recognition of County Council Member Ingrid M. Turner: Mayor Jordan recognized Council Member Ingrid M. Turner who is completing her second term on the Prince George's County Council representing District 4. Council commented on her many accomplishments related to Greenbelt. Council presented a Mother and Child statue to Council Member Turner and expressed their appreciation for her eight years of service.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Patrick McAndrew, 7500 Greenway Center Drive and 115 Periwinkle Court, said he was advocating for the rank and file of the Greenbelt Police Department and was formally petitioning Council on behalf of members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to fund step increases. He provided a summary of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) impasse hearing. He noted that Council sitting as the Administrative Board, had clearly stated that funding was not available for the reinstatement of step increases which had been requested by the FOP during the CBA negotiations. Mr. McAndrew said it has now been learned of a \$400,000 revenue surplus in the City's budget which should allow for the funding of step increases. He requested this petition be placed on the agenda of the next meeting for discussion and to provide an opportunity for the public to be heard.

Susan Barnett, Keep It Wooded, thanked Council for its support of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. She commented on the 11th Anniversary of the Preserve and provided thank you cards that had been collected during the Pumpkin Walk to Council. Ms. Barnett also commented on new federal guidelines for sustainable designed landscapes to incorporate pollinator friendly practices. She said as discussions proceed on the new FBI Headquarters, she wanted to be sure these guidelines were applied.

Margaret Capurso and Philip Carpenter, Washington Home and Community Hospices, requested Council's support for a Healing Arts Fair in spring 2015 at the Greenbelt Community Center. Ms. Capurso and Mr. Carpenter said the fair would make creative, holistic and preventive health and healing resources available to the community at minimal (if any) cost.

Theodora Scarato, 6-S Hillside, spoke on the health dangers of exposure to wireless radiation. She requested Council: 1) issue a proclamation to educate people about the health dangers of exposure to wireless radiation; and 2) formally note its opposition to cell tower placement on school property.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Statement for the Record – Executive Session of October 15, 2014: The following motion is needed:

Ms. Davis moved that in accordance with Section 10-509 (c) (2) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that Council met in executive session on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at 8:10 p.m. in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a) (4) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to discuss a business relocation to Greenbelt.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling				X (arrived at 8:42pm)

Ms. Mach				X (arrived at 8:14pm)
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts		X		
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Jessica Bellah, Community Planner.

Other individuals in attendance: Garth Beall, Renard LLC, and Paul Summers, Asset Valuation Group.

Council took no actions during this session.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Davis - yes
Mr. Herling - yes
Ms. Mach - yes
Ms. Pope - yes
Mr. Putens - yes
Mr. Roberts - no
Mayor Jordan - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Let's Move Cities, Towns and Counties – Gold Medals: Ms. McHale, Director of Recreation, announced that Greenbelt has achieved a gold medal in all of the following five areas of the Let's Move Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC): Goal I - Start Early, Start Smart; Goal II - MyPlate, Your Place; Goal III - Smart Servings for Students; Goal IV - Model Food Service; and Goal V - Active Kids at Play. She said that having achieved these five (5) gold medals, Greenbelt is now ranked #1 in the country among the 454 communities participating in LMCTC and will be formally recognized at a celebration session at the National League of Cities conference on November 20th. Ms. McHale thanked Council for its support of the LMCTC initiative.

Council congratulated Ms. McHale and the Recreation Department on this accomplishment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Amend Resolution 2024, a Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases From Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)

Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mr. Herling introduced the resolution for first reading.

Camp Fire Ring – Northway Field: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Julie McHale, Recreation Director, said the petition for a camp fire ring at Northway Fields had been reviewed by Recreation Department staff. She noted that many advantages of a fire ring had been identified such as fostering a community atmosphere for outdoor events and facilitating a new programming area. However, many concerns had also been identified such as its proximity to the Forest Preserve, the notoriety of Northway Field for inappropriate “afterhours” activities, the lack of a water supply, the lack of a restroom facility, and the need for additional funding to provide needed staff for the issuing of permits and providing security, safety and maintenance at the site.

Ms. McHale said she had further reviewed the request with both the Public Works Department and Police Department. She said all Departments expressed their concerns regarding security, safety and maintenance issues and do not support the proposal.

Mr. Roberts said he believes a camp fire ring could be accommodated by the asphalt piles at Northway Fields and doesn’t think City staff would be required when fires are held. Ms. McHale expressed concern that having an unmonitored fire would not be safe. Mr. Roberts commented on the number of unmonitored campfires that are currently held on Northway Field.

Joe Murray, 9-Q Research Road, mentioned the benefits that fire rings provide. He said that since the area at Northway was a mesic forest, fire safety concerns should not be a major issue.

Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens questioned whether there would be another location where a fire ring could be better accommodated, perhaps near the Fire Department. Ms. Davis suggested consideration be given to finding a site that is easily accessibility to everyone, including handicap individuals. Ms. Pope said she would like to know about insurance issues regarding a fire ring, what the City usage fee would be for use of the ring and also a review by the Police Department and Fire Department on the idea.

Ms. Mach asked about use of the fire rings currently available at Greenbelt National Park. Mr. Murray said the usage fee is \$80, which is cost prohibitive for most individuals or organizations.

Mr. Putens moved that Council table this item and requested: 1) Mr. Murray determine if another location would be better suited for the camp fire ring; and 2) review of the idea by the Police Department and Fire Department.

The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Grant Award for Purchase of Mobile Data Terminals: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Sgt. Tim White explained that the Police Department implemented the use of in-car mobile data terminals (MDT's) about eight years ago. He said the MDT's are used daily by police officers for enforcement tasks such as issuing traffic violation paperwork, completing accident reports, accessing CAD/RMS data and completing incident reports. Since the average lifespan of a MDT is five to seven years, Sgt. White said the Department is requesting authorization to use a portion of the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (MDVTPC) grant award of \$49,000 for the purchase of six new MDT's to replace aging units.

Ms. Pope left the meeting at 9:46 p.m. due to a family emergency.

Ms. Davis moved that Council approve use of the MDVTPC grant award for the purchase of six (6) Panasonic Toughbook 31 computers in accord with Maryland State Bid #060B2490022 from the Brekford Corporation at a cost not to exceed \$20,922. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Sgt. White and Mr. McLaughlin mentioned that the City had used a portion of the MDVTPC funding for the purchase of license plate readers (LPR's) and crime analysis software. Mr. Putens suggested any funds remaining from the MDVTPC be specifically used towards addressing vehicle theft crimes.

Advisory Board/Committee Code of Conduct: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Ms. Mach proposed an addition regarding members recusing themselves from discussions on matters where they may have a conflict of interest.

Ms. Davis moved that Council: 1) tentatively approve the Advisory Board/Committee Code of Conduct with the addition proposed by Ms. Mach; 2) direct staff to send out to Advisory Boards and Committees for comments; and 3) send back to Council for final approval when comments are received. Ms. Mach seconded.

After discussion, it was suggested that the word "tentatively" be removed from the motion.

Ms. Davis moved that the motion be amended to eliminate the word "tentatively" and that Council approve the Code of Conduct and direct staff to send out to advisory board and committee members for signature. She said if any comments were received from members on the Code of Conduct, Council could review the Code in the future. Ms. Mach agreed to Ms. Davis' amendment.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, asked and was provided answers to several questions.

The motion passed 6-0.

Council Reports: Councilmembers noted their recent attendance at the following activities and events.

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad Open House – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Greenbelt Health Fair – Ms. Mach
National Press Club Coop Month Forum – Ms. Mach
Maryland Municipal League (MML) Communications Committee Meeting – Ms. Mach
Cookies at the Bridge – Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope
Utopia Film Festival 10th Anniversary Reception – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Pope, Mr. Putens, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Herling
Utopia Film Festival - Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling
District 2 Community Meeting with School Board Member Peggy Higgins – Ms. Davis, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Joint Meeting of Prince George’s County Municipal Association and Montgomery County Municipal Association – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling
Greenbelt’s Museum Rexford Revue – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Annual Picnic – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Remembering Izzy Cartoon Contest Reception and Award Ceremony – Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach
Pumpkin Carving Event – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Pumpkin Walk – Ms. Davis and Mr. Roberts
Rafael’s Race at Greenbelt Elementary School – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis
Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Springhill Lake Elementary School – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Herling, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pro Bono Legal Workshop – Mayor Jordan and Mr. Herling
St. Hugh’s of Grenoble Dedication of Organ – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Pope and Mr. Putens
Community Resource Fair – Ms. Pope
Mowatt Methodist Church Spaghetti Dinner – Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope
FallFest – Mayor Jordan, Mr. Putens, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Mach, Mr. Herling and Ms. Pope

Ms. Mach reported she had attended a Prince George’s County Public Schools Renaming Committee Meeting for the old Greenbelt Middle School. She said the committee submitted three names, Dora Kennedy, Douglas Ellington and Pierre Charles L’Enfant French Immersion School, to the County Executive.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, October 27, 2014, at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held October 27, 2014."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor